



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

OFFICE OF MINE RECLAMATION

801 K STREET • MS 09-06 • SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814

PHONE 916 / 323-9198 • FAX 916 / 445-6066 • TDD 916 / 324-2555 • WEB SITE conservation.ca.gov

California's Abandoned Mine Lands Program Fact Sheet The Abandoned Mine Lands Unit

● The Department of Conservation's **Abandoned Mine Lands Unit (AMLU)** implements a field program to inventory abandoned mines, provide a preliminary assessment of any health and safety hazards observed, and remediate hazardous sites.

● The AMLU estimates that approximately **165,000** mine features on more than **47,000** abandoned mine sites exist statewide.*

- More than **39,500** abandoned mines (84% of 47,000 sites) are physical safety hazards.
- An estimated **5,200** abandoned mines (11% of 47,000 sites) are environmental hazards.
- More than **62,000** mine features (38% of 165,000 features) are hazardous openings.
- Ownership:
 - **67%** are on federal lands.
 - **31%** are on private lands.
 - **2%** are on state or local lands.



A vehicle is removed from an abandoned mine shaft in Imperial County after a rescue (photos courtesy of Bureau of Land Management and Yuma Fire Department).

* A feature is a single human-made object or disturbance associated with mining, such as a shaft or adit (vertical or horizontal opening), tailings, machinery and facilities, etc. A mine can be comprised of one or more features.

● The AMLU has completed numerous field inventories and abandoned mine remediation projects (such as fences, backfills, bat-compatible gates, and other closures) throughout California.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Inventories conducted (since 1997): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ More than 14,500 abandoned mine features on more than 2,400 sites. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Remediations completed (since 2002): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ More than 300 hazardous abandoned mine features on nearly 100 sites. |
|--|---|

● Every year, people are injured or killed in accidents on abandoned mine property. In 2006, six accidents at abandoned mines in California were reported. These accidents resulted in three fatalities, while six other people were injured.

● The AMLU's "**Stay Out - Stay Alive!**" message is part of a national public awareness campaign aimed at warning children and adults about the dangers of exploring or playing near abandoned mines. To report an abandoned mine in California, call the AMLU hotline at **1-877-OLD-MINE**.

● The AMLU also convenes the California Abandoned Mine Lands Forum. Forum members meet quarterly to discuss and coordinate on safety and chemical hazard issues related to abandoned mine lands. For Forum news, visit www.consrv.ca.gov/OMR/abandoned_mine_land/amlu_forum.htm.

● The map on page 2 shows potential, inventoried, and remediated mine feature locations. For more information, visit the AMLU website at www.consrv.ca.gov/OMR/abandoned_mine_land.



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, GOVERNOR, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
MIKE CHRISMAN, SECRETARY FOR RESOURCES

BRIDGETT LUTHER, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
OFFICE OF MINE RECLAMATION, ABANDONED MINE LANDS UNIT



***CALIFORNIA ABANDONED MINES
POTENTIAL, INVENTORIED AND REMEDIATED
MINE FEATURE LOCATIONS***

- ★ Remediations
- ▲ AML Program Inventoried Features
- USGS Mapped Mine Features*
- Cities

* Based on USGS 7.5 minute topographical map mine symbols

0 40 80 120 160 Miles

Map produced by the Department of Conservation Abandoned Mine Lands Unit, December 2006.